

University Apartments E304
1603 East Third Street
Bloomington, Indiana
November 24, 1951

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
Department of Genetics
University of Wisconsin
Madison, Wisconsin
Dear Dr. Lederberg;

Last summer at the Cold Spring Harbor symposium, I spoke to you regarding the possibilities of my coming to Wisconsin next year for doctorate studies. I am at present working on the master's degree at Indiana University with Dr. H.J. Muller. My undergraduate work was also done here, with a major in zoology.

In order to be able to continue in school, financial aid in the form of a fellowship or an assistantship would be necessary. You suggested that genetics assistantships would probably be available next fall. Concerning this I have a number of questions.

From the point of view of obtaining a job after graduation, it might be wise to enter the department of zoology with a major in genetics, rather than officially taking my work in the genetics department. But, according to the catalog, one should apply to one's major department for assistantships. Should I apply to your department or the zoology department if I enter as a zoology student desiring a genetics assistantship? Or do you think I ought to enter the genetics department, after all?

I should also like to ask you about the nature of the work involved in these assistantships; whether or not it would be such that it could count for bread, butter, and academic credit simultaneously; approximately how much assistantships pay at the University of Wisconsin; and the amount of time that one devotes to the work.

Your advice and opinions concerning these matters would be much appreciated, (particularly in regard to the department in which it would be most suitable for me to declare my major, as this information is needed for the application forms for entrance to the graduate school.) If an interview is desirable, I could come to Madison either in the Christmas holiday or between semesters. Thank you very much.

Sincerely yours,

(Miss) Helen Louise Byers

P.S. Please give my regards to Dave Skaar, whom I understand is there now.